

# THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS

An Agency Profile Prepared by the  
Legislative Fiscal Division

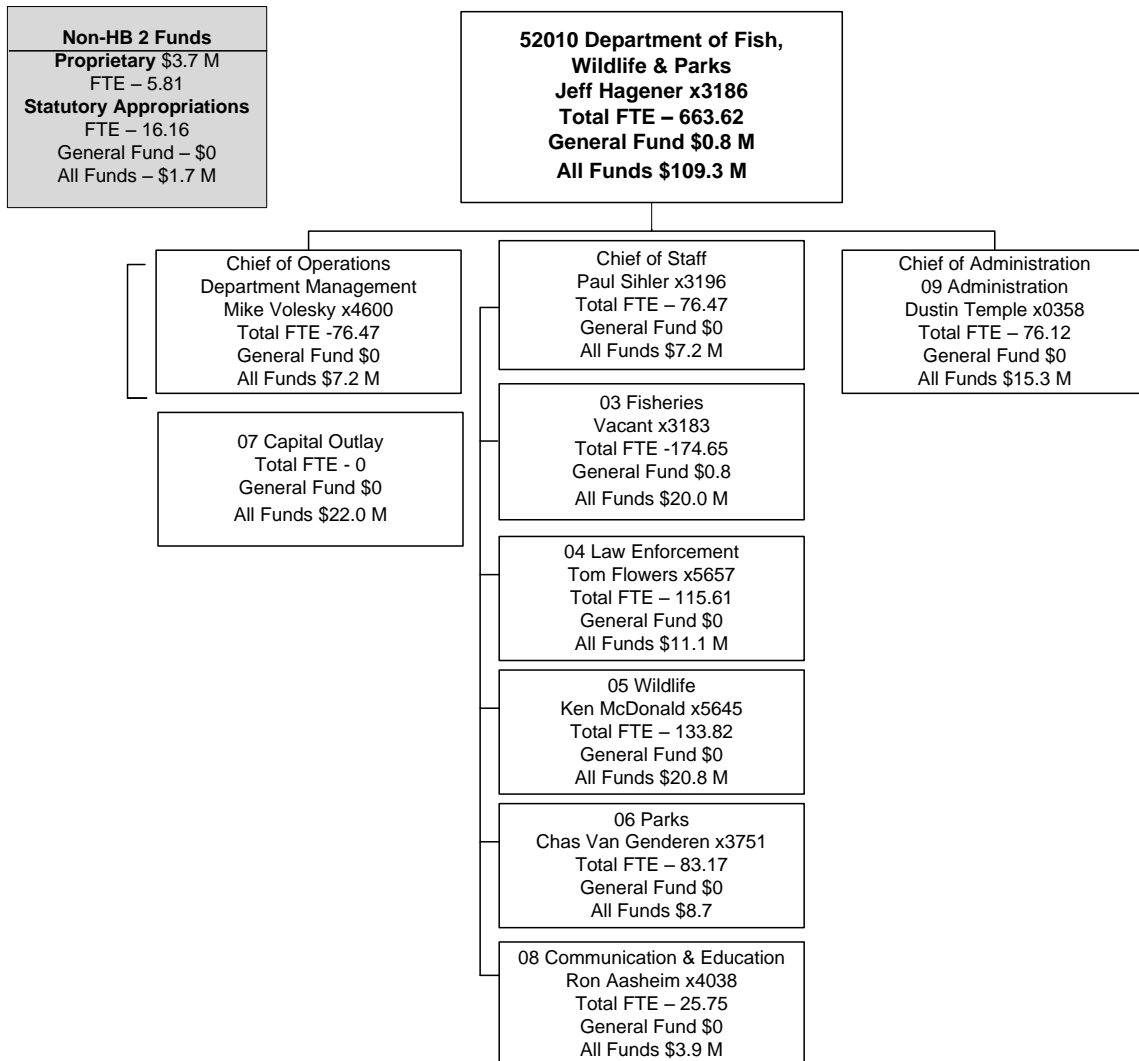
November, 2016



# INTRODUCTION

The Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) manages Montana's fish, wildlife, and recreational resources. Two, five-member, Governor-appointed commissions provide direction on issues related to land usage, preservation and management of resources, and establishment of licenses and fees.

Below is an organizational chart of the branch, including full-time equivalent (FTE) numbers and the HB 2 base general fund appropriations and the total of all funds. Unless otherwise noted, all phone extensions are preceded by (406) 444.



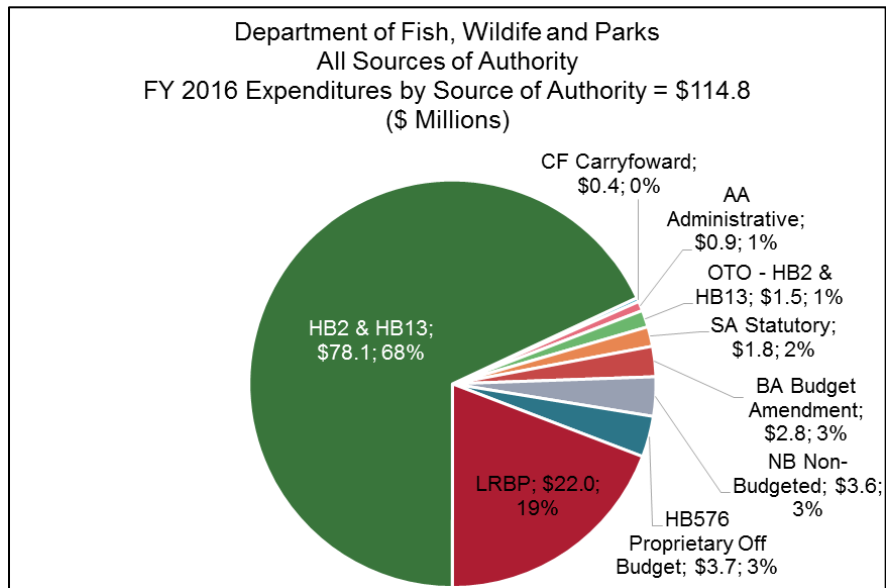
## HOW SERVICES ARE PROVIDED

Seven divisions form FWP and perform the following functions:

- The Fisheries Division preserves aquatic species to meet fishing and stewardship needs
- The Enforcement Division protects outdoor resources by ensuring compliance with Montana laws and regulations
- The Wildlife Division preserves wildlife species to meet hunting and stewardship needs
- The Parks Division preserves the state's natural heritage and promotes recreational opportunities

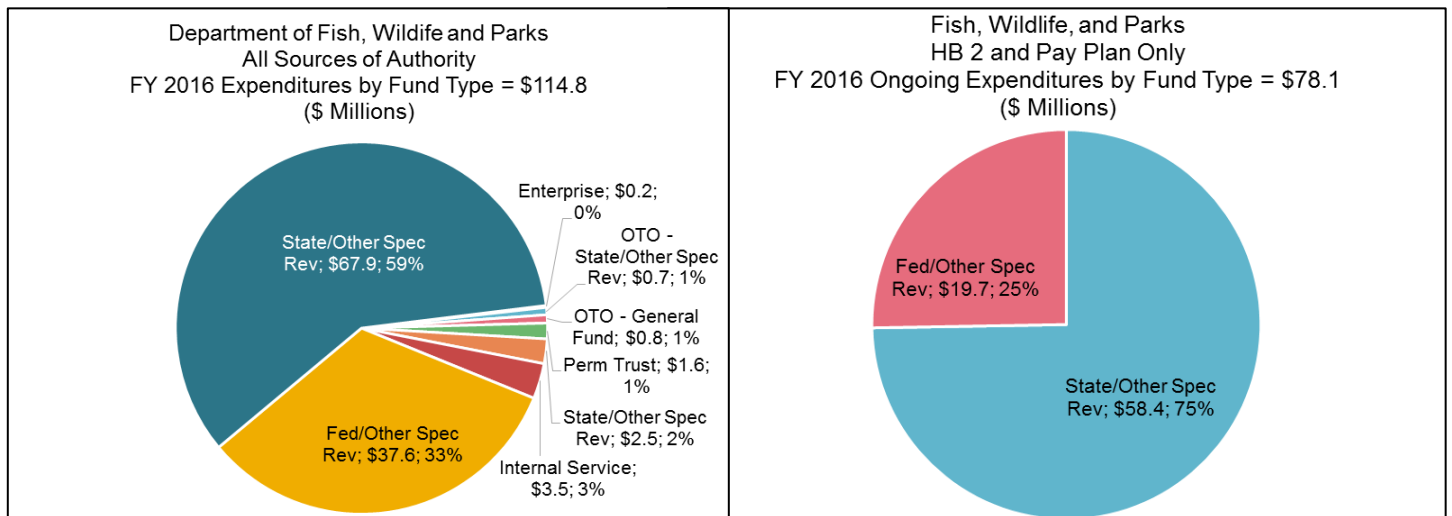
- The Communication and Education Division coordinates the department's information and outreach programs
- The Administration Division provides administrative support services to the entire department
- The Department Management Division provides managerial and policy support to the entire department

## SOURCES OF SPENDING AUTHORITY



The above chart shows the sources of authority for the Legislative Branch that were expended in FY 2016.

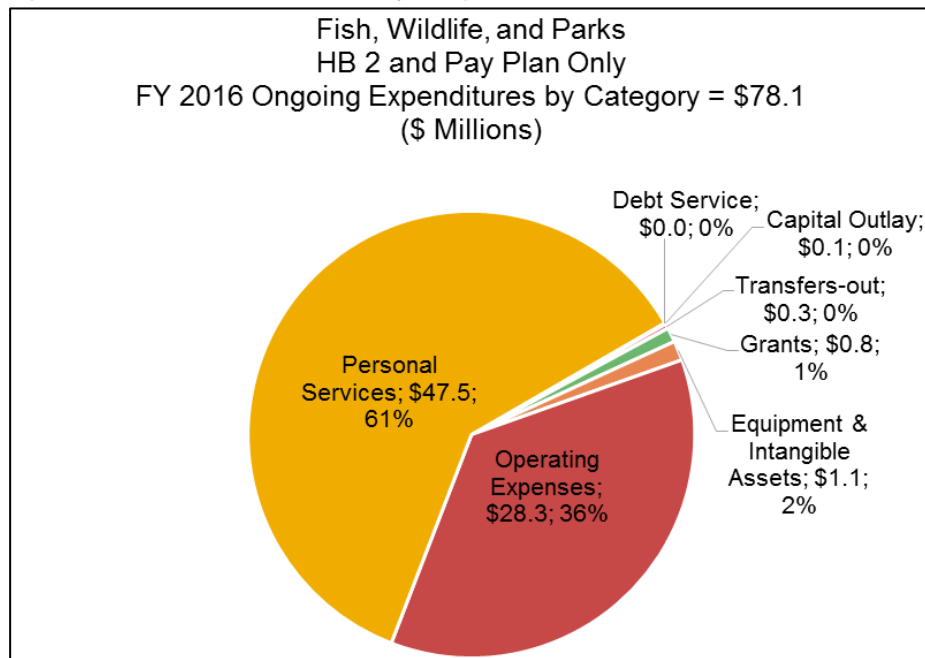
## FUNDING



The chart on the left shows the agency's and sources of its total funding authority. The chart on the right shows the agency's HB2 and pay plan funding authority by fund type.

## EXPENDITURES

The next chart explains how the HB 2 authority is spent.



## HOW THE 2017 LEGISLATURE CAN EFFECT CHANGE

In order to change FWP expenditure levels and/or activity, the legislature must address one or more of the following basic elements that drive most department costs.

### Licenses, Permits, and Fees

Seventy percent of FWP's funding comes from the sale of licenses, permits, and other fees. To influence agency activities in this area, the legislature could change:

- the services and activities subject to fees
- the amount to charge for licenses, permits, and fees
- the types and combination of licenses made available
- which fees, or portions of fees, can be used for a particular project
- the guidelines for charging fees or imposing fines

### Species Management

FWP is charged with protection, preservation, and management of all fish and game, fur-bearing animals, waterfowl, and nongame birds. To influence agency activities in this area, the legislature could change:

- which species will require protection
- the degree of protection to be offered
- the types of protection options
- the ability to access federal funding
- land development patterns

### Access

FWP may implement voluntary programs to expand hunting access on private lands. Currently, FWP has access to 6.4 million acres of enrolled land, and 336 fishing access sites. To influence agency activities in this area, the legislature could change:

- the number of acres and fishing access sites to be made available

- the number of landowners for participation
- the number of hunter days per site
- the degree of department enforcement available on this acreage

## Park Management

FWP oversees Montana's state parks. To influence agency activities in this area, the legislature could change:

- the number of parks under department management
- the land size requirements for parks
- the seasonal length of time the parks are open
- the amount and scope of services available at the parks
- the scheduling and defining of maintenance activities

## Enforcement

The enforcement of laws and rules pertaining to department activities is a main function of FWP. To influence agency activities in this area, the legislature could change:

- the scope of enforcement activities
- the number of wardens in the enforcement workforce
- the enforcement priorities
- the nature and disposition of penalties and fines

## Land Management

FWP, through multiple divisions, holds fee title to land and conservation easements for many purposes. To influence agency activities in this area, the legislature could change:

- the use of conservation easements as a land management tool
- the laws regarding public access to lands purchased or otherwise acquired with public funds
- the requirements on development plans prior to land acquisitions

## Staffing Levels

Common to all agencies, any decisions that change FTE will have a direct and immediate impact on the ability to deliver services/functions by FWP. Personal service costs will be a primary driver of total department costs. Factors impact personal service costs include:

- Professional/technical/educational requirements of FTE job descriptions
- Cost of benefits
- Years of service or longevity

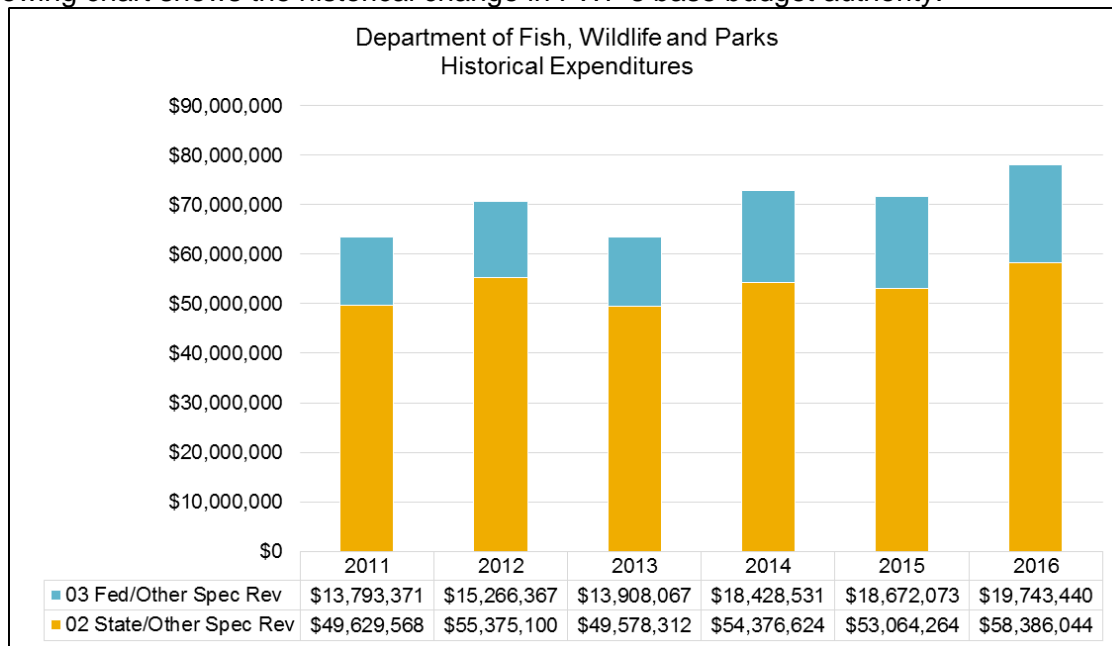
## Major Cost Drivers

Element	2011	2015	Significance of Data
Visitation at State Parks	1.9 million	2.5 million	Increased costs for facilities maintenance and operations.

FWP has a large percentage of its budget devoted to fixed costs, including personal services. To impact these costs, the legislature would need to change statute.

## FUNDING/EXPENDITURE HISTORY, AUTHORITY USED TO ESTABLISH THE BASE BUDGET

The following chart shows the historical change in FWP's base budget authority.



## MAJOR LEGISLATIVE CHANGES IN THE LAST 10 YEARS

### 2015 Session

- HB 140 changed the hunting and fishing fee license structure. As a part of this, the legislature eliminated some free licenses, raised license fees, and created an apprentice hunter certificate. These changes increased the total general license funds available for FWP to use.
- HB 167 increased the fees for non-resident off-highway vehicles, providing additional funds for FWP.
- HB 300 created a snowmobile pass for use on FWP maintained or funded trails. This provides additional funds for FWP.

### 2013 Session

- HB 609 provided for an interim study of hunting and fishing licensing to determine the long-term funding of FWP and its complexity of its hunting and fishing license structure.
- HB 401 revised certain hunting license application fees and allows per species collection of the preference system application fee.
- HB 586 appropriated \$640,000 general fund over the biennium for prevention of aquatic invasive species.
- SB 200 revised laws related to wolf management. It authorized multiple licenses to hunt and trap wolves and landowners to kill wolves on private property without a hunting license.

### 2011 Session

- HB 370 increased the optional motor vehicle registration fee from \$4 to \$6 for operations and maintenance at state parks and Virginia and Nevada Cities.
- HB 621 revised the Montana Aquatic Invasive Species Act in which FWP is a participating agency, provided an appropriation, and authorized the establishment of quarantine measures through rulemaking, including mandatory inspections of interior portions of boats that contain water.

## **2009 Session**

- SB 343 established the Montana Aquatic Invasive Species Act, requiring FWP to establish a mechanism for Montana to take concerted action to detect, control, and manage invasive species to prevent further introduction, importation, and infestation.

## **2007 Session**

- SB 205 eliminated vacancy savings application to game wardens.
- SB 243 provided free sportsman licenses to certain military personnel.

For more information on the agency, please visit their website, here: <http://fwp.mt.gov/>